



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 27 Washington counties (plus neighboring counties in Idaho and Oregon) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by adverse weather conditions, including excessive rain, excessive heat, hail, high winds, severe thunderstorms, lightning, flash flooding and freezing weather that occurred in the following 12 primary Washington counties beginning April 1, 2006, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Washington counties:

Adams	Benton	Chelan	Douglas	Franklin
Grant	Lincoln	Okanogan	Spokane	Walla Walla
Whitman	Yakima			

Neighboring Washington counties:

Asotin	Columbia	Ferry	Garfield	King
Kittitas	Klickitat	Lewis	Pend Oreille	Pierce
Skagit	Skamania	Snohomish	Stevens	Whatcom

Neighboring Idaho counties:

Benewah	Bonner	Kootenai	Latah	Nez Perce
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Neighboring Oregon counties:

Morrow	Umatilla
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Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Chris Gregorie.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

For information and application forms, call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **May 1, 2007**.

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